

Message Text

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70

ORIGIN COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 EB-11 USIA-15 AID-20 RSC-01

(ISO) R

66614

DRAFTED BY: COM/OID/MEPD: JLSMITH

APPROVED BY: EB/CBA/OCA/REP: GPWILSON

COM/OED/MEPD: JRHEAGEN

COM/OED/MEPD: MWELLS

COM/BIC/OIM: JPAYNE(INFO)

STATE/EA/IMS: PGILL

USAID/SA/RD: KRABIN

USIA: SBOURGIN(INFO)

STATE/EA/ECP: AGEBER(INFO)

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P R 162052Z JUL 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

UNCLAS STATE 153550

EO11652 NA

TAGS: BEXP SN

SUBJ: ASIAN BUS MANUFACTURING

REF: SINGAPORE 2914

1. BOURGIN WILL BE ON VACATION UNTIL AUG 8. HIS STAFF
ADVISES THAT HE HAS HANDLED BUS PROJECT PERSONALLY AND
ANY COMMUNICATION WITH HOCHSTADT SHOULD AWAIT HIS RETURN.

2. REFTEL INDICATES THAT REGIONAL BUS CONCEPT IS IDEA
THAT NEEDS FURTHER DETAILED ANALYSIS BEFORE COMMERCE CAN
INVITE U.S. INDUSTRY TEAM TO VISIT AREA. BUS MANUFAC-
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TURING IS COMPLEX OPERATION REQUIRING SPECIALIZED

TECHNOLOGY. PARTICIPATION BY SEVERAL COUNTRIES IN BUS PRODUCTION PRESENTS SERIOUS PROBLEMS OF COORDINATION THAT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED BY EXPERTS. FURTHERMORE, ECONOMIC FEASIBILITY IS ALSO UNKNOWN. POSSIBLE COMPETITION (ESPECIALLY JAPANESE) IS OBVIOUS QUESTION. IN VIEW THESE AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS, SUGGEST GOS AND OTHER INTERESTED ASEAN COUNTRIES SHOULD CONSIDER RETAINING SERVICES OF QUALIFIED CONSULTANTS TO STUDY CONCEPT AS FIRST STEP TOWARDS POTENTIAL IMPLEMENTATION. SINCE WILBUR SMITH IS ALREADY IN SINGAPORE CONDUCTING TRANSPORTATION FEASIBILITY STUDIES, EMBASSY MAY WISH CONTACT FIRM INFORMALLY FOR ADVICE AND SUGGESTIONS ON REGIONAL MANUFACTURING PROPOSAL.

3. WHILE COMMERCE WOULD BE WILLING ASSIST GOS AND/OR OTHER ASEAN GOVERNMENTS INTERESTED IN APPROACHING PROFESSIONAL CONSULTANTS, DEPARTMENT HAS DISCUSSED THIS MATTER WITH AID WHICH HAS OFFERED PROVIDE SERVICES OF MR. PHILIP RUPERT, ON STAFF REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICE IN BANGKOK, WHO MAY BE WILLING CONDUCT PRELIMINARY STUDY. MR. RUPERT HAS EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, PARTICULARLY IN FIELD OF REGIONAL INDUSTRIALIZATION, AND IS FAMILIAR WITH EXECUTIVES OF SEVERAL LEADING U.S. BUS MANUFACTURERS. SINCE HIS SERVICES WOULD BE OFFERED AT NO COST TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, BELIEVE THIS PROPOSAL MAY BE ATTRACTIVE AND PRODUCTIVE MEASURE THAT COULD CLARIFY REGIONAL BUS CONCEPT AND LAY GROUNDWORK FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS. SINCE RUPERT PLANS VISIT WASHINGTON DURING WEEK JULY 22 FOR DISCUSSIONS ON THIS SUBJECT WITH AID, COMMERCE, AND STATE, WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S OPINION OF PROPOSAL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
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